decision has been taken to transfer Gas Authority of India Ltd.'s gas separation plant at Lakwa to RAPL. Bureau of Indstrial Costs and Prices is determining transfer price of Lakwa gas separation plant. RAPL has also recruited 65 technical personnels from the State of Assam who are undergoing training at Reliance Industries Ltd.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 3600 crores and is expected to be commissioned in forty four months from the date of singing of gas supply agreement and handing over of entire land required for the project.

Evaluation of assets of Haldia Project

3380. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4458 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th May, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the asset evaluation made by PDIL was based on "assumption" that all the equipment and machinery shall be dismantled;

(b) whether in view of PDIL's assessment that majority of the equipments are operable, the asset valuation will be different on "as is where is" basis;

(c) if so, whether the evaluation is being re-done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Re-evaluation of the assets of Haldia Fertilizer Project will be undertaken, when required.

नई उर्वरक नीति

3381. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकार दवे:**
श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने नई उर्वरक नीति को लागू कर दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके परिणाम क्या रहे हैं और क्या इस संबंध में किसानों तथा राज्यों की प्रतिक्रिया का कोई आंकलन किया गया है;

(ग) उक्त नीति के अन्तर्गत किन-किन बातों को शामिल किया गया है और क्या राष्ट्रीय खपत/उत्पादन की ओर कोई विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० ए०के० पटेल): (क) नई उर्वरक नीति की घोषणा अभी तक नहीं की गई है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Demand of Fertilisers for Coming Crop Seasons

3382. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected quantities of fertilisers which may be in demand in the coming crop seasons, State-wise

(b) whether the Ministry will be in position to meet these demands;

(c) whether there is a short supply of fertilisers in North-East region; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bring it up to demand levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertiliser under price, distribution and movement control. The demand of urea for each croping season is assessed by the Government of India in Department of Agriculutre & Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with

the State Governments before the commencement of the season. There is no formal assessment of demand of other fertilisers which are decontrolled. In their case, States only project their requirement for the season.

For Kharif '98 the State-wise assessed demand of urea is given in the Statement (*see* below). No difficulty is envisaged in meeting the demand. In the case of decontrolled fertilisers, the demand-supply is regulated by operation of market forces within the parameters of Concession Scheme of DAC.

(c) and (d) Due to restriction of rail movement and shutdown of M/s Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Ltd. (HFC) urea plant at Namrup. In June'98, shortages had temporarily developed in the States of Manipur and Tripura. However, urea supply was rushed to these States from HFC/Barauni and IFFCO/Phulpur after obtaining special dispensation from Ministry of Railways.

Statement

Assessed Demand of Urea for Kharif '98 Season

('000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Assessed demand
1.	Andhra Pradesh	960.00
2.	Karnataka	590.00
3.	Kerala	72.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	375.00
5.	Gujarat	600.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	700.00
7.	Maharashtra	1125.00
8.	Rajasthan	485.00
9.	Goa	4.50
10.	Haryana	600.00
11.	Punjab	1000.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2225.00
13.	Himachal Pradesh	30.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.00
15.	Delhi	13.50
16.	Bihar	700.00
17.	Orissa	325.00
18.	West Bengal	460.00
19.	Assam	50.00
20.	Tripura	12.00
21.	Manipur	23.00
22.	Meghalaya	3.00
23.	Nagaland	0.50
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.35
25.	Mizoram	0.40
26.	Sikkim	0.50
27.	Others	49.94
	Total:	10479.69

Threat of extinction of River-Dolphins

3383. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that unlike their marine counterparts river-dolphins are a rare lot and face extinction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their population in river Ganga, Brahmaputra and Karnaphuli has dwindled from about 5,000 to only 800 over the period of past ten years; and

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn out to protect, preserve and promote this rare and threatened species if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The River Dolphins are rare and considered critical as per recent IUCN criteria. However, there is no immediate threat of its extinction.

(b) No, Sir. As reported by the Zoological Survey of India, the dolphins are mostly seen in the Chambal, Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers of India. Their estimated population was 3500 in 1992 and at present it is estimated to be 1000-1200.